The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters effecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, December 29, 1911, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Financial Help Wanted

Local Unions and friends should help the Textile Workers, Glove Workers, and the Calumet strikes.

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BLAME ON ABSENT OWNERS

Secretary of Labor Wilson Refers to Miners' Strikes.

DIFFERENCES COULD BE SETTLED

A "Poor Manager of Men" Responsible for Copper Strike—An Interesting Annual Report.

Washington, Dec. 19.—A "poor manager of men," plus "absent absolute owners," was the cause for the copper strike in northern Michigan, declares Secretary of Labor Wilson in his annual report. Discussing this strike, the report says:

"If the managers of the property involved in this strike had dealt with the dispute at its inception, as its principal owners (Messrs. Shaw and Agassiz) might have done had they been on the ground and personally in charge, there is reason to believe that no strike would have occurred. But the local superintendent doubtless an excellent property manager appears by his own admission to have been a poor manager of men.

"When the employees solicited a conference with him in order to present grievances, their request was entirely ignored. It appears to have been this treatment that precipitated the strike and kindred treatment that prevented subsequent negotiations from being settled it fairly.

"No rights of the company could have been injured, nor any prejudices to its business incurred, by a courteous reception of complaints made by employes followed by removing grievances, if real, or explaining them away if mistaken."

The report treats the Colorado strike at length, and the secretary again declares he did all in his power last year that this trouble could have been settled had the employers accepted the offer of labor for arbitration been promptly accepted. It is stated that the miners accepted the offer but the operators refused, their only "concession" being a promise that they would thereafter obey the laws of the state of Colorado relative to mining and mine labor. This the report refused on the ground that such offer to obey a law intended to protect wage earners is not a concession in a labor dispute.

Just a few of adjustments of industrial disputes are included in this report, and the various other activities of the department are referred to. These include immigration, child labor, labor statistics, juvenile courts, alien contract laborers and distribution of wage-earning women.

Secretary Wilson renews his recommendation, made last year, for congressional legislation against armed guards or armed mobs, whether by employers or strikers, free access to employes under commercial contracts." The "white slave" legislation is referred to as a precedent for the enactment of the desired law.

Notice is taken by Secretary Wilson of the charge that his department is "run in the interests of union labor." On this subject the report, after making the mention of the department's organic law, says:

"Nor is there any implication that the wage-earners, in whose behalf this department was created, consist of such only as are associated locally in labor unions. It was created in the interest of the welfare of all the wage-earners of the United States, whether associated or unorganized, inasmuch, however, as it is ordinarily only through organization that the many in any class or of any interest can become articulate with reference to the common needs and aspirations, the Department of Labor is usually under a necessity of turning to the organizations that exist for the best and such as may come into existence for definite and trustworthy action on the betterment of the wage-earning classes regarding their common welfare. Freely in conference with unorganized wage-earners are welcome, official intercourse with individuals as such has practical limits which organization alone can remove."

SET MINIMUM WAGES.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 19.—At a conference held in this city it was agreed to recommend to the state industrial welfare commission that the minimum wage for waitresses be, $11 per week, and that of other female hotel or restaurant employes be $9. It was also recommended that employers be prohibited from deducting more than $2.50 a week for board and $5 for both room and board.

The three employes in the conference estimated the cost of the various items of necessity at such figures as to make a total average cost per year of $76.74, or almost $15 a week. This includes board and room. These estimates were all given as that of "an average girl" employed in a hotel or restaurant.

ADJUST THEATER DISPUTE.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 19.—After a dispute with the management of the Orpheum theater building that has been on since last May, all differences have been settled with the unions involved. The agreement applies "not only to all people engaged in the building industry, but also to all those engaged in the operation of the theater and also applies to subleasees."

VALUE OF UNIONS.

Yonkers, N. Y., Dec. 19.—In a leading editorial on the trade union movement, the Daily News of this city says:

"Every advance made by labor in this country was due to the work of labor unions. Better conditions, shorter hours, better wages, all came because a united body of American workmen asked for them. Injunction there is strong, and in unity, working together for a common object, there is great force and effectiveness.

"Too many see in labor unions only bodies of men organized to demand things, and regard the average labor union man as one ever ready to strike. That is the last thing the intelligent labor union leader desires, for a strike is a declaration of war and, no matter which side wins, the suffering is largely confined to the workers.

"The labor unions of today are better officered, better managed, and really more intelligently directed than most employers dream of, and the hope of the workmen of today and of the future is in the good work done by the labor unions. Differences there will be, but these are growing fewer, and all roads are leading to the place where strikes will be eliminated and arbitration boards will settle all differences between labor and employers of labor."

PRAISES CABINET OFFICER

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 19.—John C. Granberry, of Southwestern university, at Georgetown, Texas, takes exceptions to editorial views of the Dallas News, which recently objected to the views of Secretary of Labor Wilson on unionism. The educator writes the News as follows:

"Your criticism of the Honorable William B. Wilson, Secretary of Labor, in the paper of November 22, I believe to be not well-minded. You say that his repeated emphasis of his opinions was improper and unharmonious with a large sense of his duties as a public servant.

"I am not especially interested in defending Secretary Wilson, but I am constrained to point out your fallacy in regard to the place that union labor does occupy in our national life.

"You admit that as an officer of the Federal government he owes, in totality, even more to nonunion than to union labor, since the nonunion greatly outnumbers the union laborers. The two million wage-earners belonging to the American Federation of Labor constitute a minority of the wage-earners, but their movements are largely influenced by minorities. In general these two million wage-earners have been the battle for their class, and they are the most earnest and intelligent element of the working class. You might honor because during the war the secretary of war or of the navy lauds the army and navy.

"We live in a day of organization and group action. Without organization the individual worker is helpless. Then, organization of labor is indispensable, why should not the Secretary of Labor do everything he can to encourage such organization?

"There is here no occasion for 'neutrality.' Those who bear the burdens deserve well at our hands. Some are entitled to more than others. Organization is costly. A strike means privation. Some must sacrifice for others. Honor to the men who make the sacrifice! It is unnecessary to indorse everything that unions do. Nor are we called upon to indorse all that associations of employers, political parties and churches do.

"I will add that we must come to see that collective bargaining is necessary to put the two parties concerned on a level. We have reached the time when wage contracts can be considered private affairs."

Secretary Wilson is to be commended for his fair and sensible stand. The wonder is that more of us are so slow to see the deeper meaning of the labor movement and the significance of the labor organization as he seems to see it."

STEEL CARS FAVORED.

Washington, Dec. 19.—In its annual report to Congress, the interstate commerce commission recommends the use of steel cars in passenger trains, and prohibition of the use of wooden cars between certain of cities.

Definite penalties for violations of the hours of service law are also favored. During the present time the A. F. of L. and the railroad brotherhoods are urging the passage of a bill providing for a maximum fine of $100 for violations of this act. Courts, in many instances, have nullified the purpose of this legislation by imposing fines inflicted on railroads found guilty of working their employes more than seven hours in a twenty-four.

The commission also asks for explicit authority to examine the books, papers, documents and records of the railroads. A plea for standard operating rules is included in the report.

ANTI-ALIEN LAW UPHELD.

New York, Dec. 19.—Justice Newburger of the Supreme court, has upheld the constitutionality of the state law which forbids the employment of aliens on public work In his decision, the justice said:

"Where a statute admits of two constructions, one of which will make the act in violation of the Constitution and by the other of which the act can be sustained, as proper legislative power, that construction should be given which assumes that the legislature was mindful of its constitutional limitations, and passed a constitutional and not an unconstitutional act."

NEW CULT RIDICULED.

Washington, Dec. 19.—In an address in this city, Dr. Wiley announced the new school of sanitation that advocates the idea that foul air is not injurious. He told his audience that this was a serious cult, engaging the approval of reverend scientists, who were supposed to know better. He ridiculed their propaganda, and denied that there was any rational foundation for the claims made by them.

Every building—school, church, other place of general assembly and the home—should be constructed on the ventilating principle to allow thirty cubic feet of fresh air an hour to every individual within the structure.

OFFERS UNLIMITED INSURANCE.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—The state industrial accident commission has made an offer to the California Metal Producers' association that it will extend unlimited state insurance to mine owners if they will guarantee the state an annual premium income of $100,000. The commission says, however, that if not accepted, to establish a special compensation insurance rate for mines in this state, based upon actual experience.

COMPLAIN OF DISCRIMINATION.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Clerks and draftsmen employed by the government at Washington and at other navy yards and naval stations are discussing methods to secure a thirty days' vacation, such as is enjoyed by other classified civil service employes. The complaining workers are now only given fifteen days, with the exception of a failure of the department officials to equalize the leaves, it is said Congress will be appealed to.

A STATE CONVENTION.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 19.—The call for the fourteenth annual convention of the Washington State Federation of Labor, to be held in this city, January 18 to 25, has been issued. The gathering promises to be an important one, for many big problems that now confront trade unionists in the northwest will be acted upon.

SIGNS UNION AGREEMENT.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 19.—The Steam Engineers' and the Stationary Firemen's unions have adjusted differences that have existed between them and the large department store for over a year. A contract has been signed and union engineers and firemen will hereafter be employed.

RENEW AGREEMENT.

Louisville, Dec. 19.—The Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Helpers has renewed an agreement with the Kentucky and Indiana Terminal company, which carries an increase of one cent an hour and a betterment of working conditions.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS TALKS IN SOUTHERN CITY ON WORKERS' HOPES AND AIMS

Richmond, Va., Dec. 19.—During his short stay in this city, last week, President Gompers addressed the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education, the members of the city's administration board, and one of the largest mass meetings ever held in Richmond, which was arranged by local unionists.

In his address before the educational conference, the trade unionist defended strikes, as much as they are to be deplored, declaring that they are the crystallized method of expressing a natural and warranted discontent. In referring to the fight organized labor is making on convict labor, President Gompers said the workers did not believe that convicts should not be employed, but they insisted that these unfortunates should not be exploited for the gain of employing contractors or for the profit of the state. He favored the state-use system of solving this question. President Gompers said no argument by him was required in support of industrial education, as a great part of his life had been devoted to combatting wrong-headed notions about the attitude of organized labor with reference to every sort of social and economic questions, and that the degree of ignorance of the workers is not so great as the presumptuous and supercilious often assume it to be. He declared organized labor is not opposed to the development of industrial education in the south, but to co-operate in instituting them. Labor, the speaker insisted, cannot favor any scheme of industrial education which is lop-sided, and the only way to avoid working men from becoming the victims of the schemes of industrial education would be to find out what the demand is in any given community.

At the mass meeting, held under the auspices of the Central Trades and Labor Council, President Gompers said that men and women today no longer beg for concessions, that they no longer accept gaunt figures of hunger in demand of their needs, but that they demand right, they demand justice and freedom. "Though it is hunger still," he said, "it is a new form of hunger. It is the hunger for better food, the hunger for better raiment; the hunger for better surroundings; the hunger for better opportunity for our children, so that they may no more be the subjects of exploitation, but that they have equal rights and liberties with other people. What is the labor movement? It is the crystallization of a sentiment of indignation, of the expression of the discontent of the masses of the working people who desire relief from burdens too long borne, who ask for privileges too long denied them."

President Gompers said every law enacted during the past ten years of benefit to the workers was advocated by organized labor twenty-five years ago. He said James Donahue Sullivan, a printer, member of New York Typographical union, was the first man to propose the initiative and referendum; that the Australian ballot, direct nominations, the corrupt practices act, direct primaries, child labor laws, safety appliances acts, and even the public school system were the result of organized labor's efforts.

"We want industrial peace," said Mr. Gompers, "but we do not want it at any price. It must be peace with a progressive movement. The masses should have the improvements they desire, if the world is to be made a better world. As to compulsory arbitration and enforced service, it is but another species of slavery. Our aim is that every man shall have his own best concept of right and justice —that he shall be able to enter upon a contract upon an equality of terms."

LIVES LOST IN U. S. MINES

Washington, Dec. 19.—Despite the efforts of the United States bureau of mines, Director Holmes, in his annual report, declares that the loss of life is far greater than it should be with the natural hazards of the industry, and makes a number of more extended recommendations on the part of the government.

"The humanitarian motives for undertaking such investigations are obvious," says the director. "A sufficient economic reason is that during the past year more than 2,500 men were killed and more than 100,000 injured in the mining and metalliquid industries of the country. One-half of these fatalities and three-fourths of the injuries may be regarded as preventable. The direct economic loss from the accidents may be estimated at not less than $12,000,000 a year, and this loss is ultimately borne by the great consumers of mineral products throughout the country."

The necessity for a more extensive use of safety appliances in the mines is shown, the report says, by the fact that in five years, through lack of such appliances, more than 2,500 men have been killed in the mines and nearly 20,000 seriously injured.

In Kansas, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Iowa, says the report, it is customary for the mines to set off the explosives have lost their lives, and it is urged that the shots should be fired by electricity from outside the mines. "In many districts," says the report, "the methods of firing shots employed are still so extremely hazardous that only the most reckless men are willing to act as shot firers."

Director Holmes also calls attention to the discovery of a process by the chemists of the bureau of mines, whereby gem is much sought for its supposed curative qualities, can be produced at one-third of its present cost. With radium now selling at $120,000 a gram, its reduction in price to $40,000 will, it is said, result in many households throughout the country being able to purchase a supply. The process by which this is to be accomplished has already been tested with success in the plant of the National Radium Institute, in this city, and is the subject of the technical staff of the bureau of mines.

NEWS FROM WHEELING.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 19.—The Butchers union of this city has secured a renewal of its contract with employers for another year.

The Carpenters District Council is preparing to submit a new wage scale to employers. Mill men are to be included in the new contract. They will call for, on the average, a 34 rate. In the council are included cities surrounding Wheeling.

General President Kramer was in this city assisting the amalgamation of the Metal Tool Workers union with the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Helpers.

TO MEET NEW UNIONS.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 19.—The managing board of the several state institutions will meet representatives of organized labor in the first of the year to decide on wages and hours of employes. At the present time six Illinois state institutions are organized—Dunning, Elgin, Jacksonville, Peoria, Kankakee, and Watertown. These include nurses and attendants, whose working conditions have been improved because of their affiliation with the trade union movement.

UNION MAN SECRETARY.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Charles D. Preble, a member of the Cigarmakers' union, has been chosen secretary of the Illinois state board of arbitration, succeeding Frank P. the civil service list. The board will hold meetings in the City Hall Square building, this city, Chicago; Lewis Winiecki, Chicago; Lewis McGovern, Freeport, and Harry M. Powell, Peoria.

"JUSTICE" IN STRIKE ZONE

Denver, Dec. 19.—In his testimony before the United States Industrial Relations Commission, Secretary-Treasurer Doyle of the United Mine Workers of America told of his trials for contempt of court on charges of violating injunctions, which, he said, prevented peaceful picketing, "doing anything but eating and sleeping." Doyle declared his trials were "farcical." The mine official has served a total of four months in jail and within three days of the hearing of his appeal to the Supreme court, the witness said, a bailiff came to him and told him that if he would apologize privately to the judge for writing the articles he would be released, Doyle refused, and on the following day he was released on the order of the court.

The appeal was never argued, he did not know whether the sentence was remitted, and the fine was never paid in either conviction.

IMMIGRATION BILL BEFORE THE SENATE

Washington, Dec. 19.—On motion of Senator Smith, of South Carolina, chairman of the senate committee on immigration, the Burnett immigration bill has been taken from the committee and is now in the hands of the Democratic caucus of the whole. The literacy test section of this bill, to which the A. F. of L. is being vigorously opposed. It is believed that a vote will be taken on the bill in the very near future.

GLOVE STRIKERS ARE FIRM

A. F. of L. Secretary Morrison Visits Gloversville, N. Y.

AIDS WORKERS IN THEIR FIGHT

Trade Union Movement Behind Strikers, Who Have Received No Wage Increase in 17 Years.

Gloversville, N. Y., Dec. 19.—Secretary Frank Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, was in this city Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week in the interest of striking glovemakers, who are engaged in a struggle that has been on since last August. Numerous conferences were held with officials of the strikers and representatives of the manufacturers. The latter insisted that "the time is favorable" to open the shops on a non-union scale, but the manufacturers will grant an increase when conditions make it possible.

Secretary Morrison informed Chairman Lehr, of the Manufacturers' association, that while questioning the statements made by the manufacturers that the time was not opportune for an increase in the wage scale, yet as one of the conditions that if they desired to demonstrate their good intentions and earnestness in the matter they would appoint a committee to meet a committee of the glove cutters for the purpose of designating the time when the increase would be put into effect. He informed Mr. Lehr that the granting of this request was inevitable and that the cutters were entitled to it because of the increased cost of living that was in operation when the strike occurred.

On Monday of this week a complex and comprehensive arbitration board was urged by the employers. To this the glove cutters dissented and suggested that both sides immediately appoint five representatives to which the entire matter would be referred for the purpose of adjusting the scale. The five representatives would go into effect and the amount of the increase to be granted.

The strikers are being cautioned not to put too much importance to these negotiations, but success will be theirs if they maintain a solid line and continue perfecting their recently-formed trade unions. This was the burden of Secretary Morrison's talks to the strikers, who were told of the efforts of the American Federation of Labor in their behalf.

The strike has been on since last August. These workers have not received a wage increase for seventeen years, and it has been repeatedly shown that their average weekly wage was but $12.39. About 8,000 men and women are involved. They were unorganized when they walked out, but since then they have been organized and chartered by the International Glove Workers' Union of America, affiliated to the A. F. of L. The American Federation of Labor has assigned Organizers Plett and Wyatt to aid the striking and locked out glove makers. There are four glove makers to every glove cutter. All of the glove cutters, with the exception of 250, have already been enrolled, and several hundred of the makers are enrolled daily each week.

An appeal for financial assistance has been issued to the 25,000 locals affiliated to the A. F. of L. by the executive council, under direction of the Philadelphia convention of the A. F. of L.

TEST REFERENDUM LAW.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 19.—Employment agencies in this city, Spokane and Tacoma will be compelled to close their doors on the initiative measure approved by the people of this State at the last election by a majority of 17,536, and which abolishes the collection of a fee by these agencies from workingmen. A long list of reasons are cited why the people's mandate is unconstitutional, but especial ire is laid on the fourteenth amendment to the United States Constitution: "Confiscation of property without due process of law."

PRINTERS LOCKED OUT.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 19.—Members of the Typographical union have been locked out of the Detroit Free Press office, presumably after a continuous record of twenty years' friendly relations with these organized workers.

RENEW OLD SCALE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 19.—Typographical union has renewed for another year the old wage scale, thus continuing pay to newspapers and job printing offices

YOUNG CHILDREN EXPOSED

New York, Dec. 19.—Exposure to accident and a definite tendency to tuberculosis, are the penalties young children pay for working in the cotton mills, according to Lewis W. Hine, photographer for the child welfare committee, who has just returned from several weeks of investigation in the South. "I have seen children in the cotton mills as bad in North Carolina. The legal age limit there for factories is thirteen years, and from any county with a compulsory education law, I believe that there are hundreds of violations, and that the 1910 census figures which reported 4,000 children under fourteen in the cotton mills, and that in 1900 and 100,000 children under fourteen in nonagricultural work throughout the country, are a conservative estimate of the number of young children at work today. This year still worse after-effects are seen in North Carolina in which the employment of children under fourteen in mills is legal, so that the physical danger and lack of education resulting from premature work continue unchecked."

The National Child Labor Committee has presented these facts in evidence to be held at Washington, on January 6 and 6, in the interest of the Palmer-Owen bill. This measure proposes a fourteen-year limit for all children employed upon factory products, or products shipped in interstate commerce; it limits the hours of children under sixteen to eight hours per day and forbids their employment at night; and it prohibits the employment at the age of children under sixteen in mines and quarries.

ANNUIS BARBARIC LAW.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 19.—The Labor World of this city comments as follows on Alabama's confession of judgment law, which has just been declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme court:

"In effect, the operation of this law was held to constitute peonage. The unfortunate operator, be he mine owner, planter or mine owner to go into court and pay the fines or petty misdemeanants and be relieved of work out a labor contract. This law has existed in Alabama for nearly forty years. It is common knowledge that many of its victims have suffered indignities and barbarities at the mile of civilization. In the turpentine districts men have been pulled off railroad trains arranged with contractors, haled into court and bailed out by human leeches to work out an indefinite sentence under conditions amounting to a life sentence.

"Such decisions as this will have a wholesome effect in increasing the workingmen's respect for the court of last resort."

WELL-KNOWN UNIONIST KILLED

Washington, Dec. 19.—James P. Highsaw, secretary of the Operative Stonecutters Association of North America, accidentally fell over the balustrade of the Federal building in this city, a distance of sixty building last week and was killed. No one saw the accident. He was in the building to call on a friend and it is believed started to walk down the stairway when he fell. He was a young man, weighing considerably more than 200 pounds, and it is thought his neck was broken by his head coming in contact with a projection before the body reached the basement floor. The coroner rendered a verdict of accidental death.

TENS OF WORKING 14 HOURS.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Long hours and hardships in locomotive cabs were told by engineers appearing before the Erdman arbitration of wage demands of engineers and firemen on the Southern railroad system. Three switch engineers told of working thirteen or fourteen hours, and the "hoghead" engineer told of averaging eleven hours.

URGE SAFETY IN INDUSTRY

San Jose, Cal., Dec. 19.—At a mass meeting in the interest of industrial safety, William J. French, a member of the industrial accident commission, urged the necessity for cooperation of employes and employers and state and federal governments to lessen the number of industrial accidents injured by the adoption of safety devices wherever possible to be used.

The state official said: "We are face to face with a condition that must be corrected if it not fully, prevented. Carelessness of the lives of workingmen is a crime, and it must be stopped and corrected it. It can be done so simply and cheaply that employers will not notice the cost. The keynote of the line of this work of prevention we shall have a committee of the Chairman of the commission, composed of employers and employes, and one in the southern part, and these will appoint committees to cover the different trades. The latter will report the needs of their trades to the committees, who will make suggestions to the commission, which in turn will hold open hearings, and if the suggestions are deemed wise they will be put into effect. By this system it will not be necessary for the legislature to make specific safety laws, which are continually added to or amended."

FAVORS OLD AGE PENSIONS

Washington, Dec. 19.—In his annual report, Secretary Redfield, of the Department of Commerce, declares the United States cannot longer hold off from giving protection in their old age to its faithful employees.

"In spite of the occasional loss of aged employes, due usually to death or resignation," says the secretary, "superannuation still increases, thus accentuating the disadvantages of an impaired service, the discouragement of a retarding sea of promotion for young and deserving employes and the feeling of unrest and perhaps dread of dismissal by those who are aware of the fact that the best service they are able to render does not reach the average standard of the younger employes of the same class and grade.

"While superannuation probably exists, it has been found difficult under present conditions to obtain admissions of the actual conditions from the higher officials under whom aged employes serve.

"Naturally, so far as may conscientiously be done, officials are reluctant to make any findings which may lead to the separation from the service of those who have given the best years of their lives to the government and who, if deprived of their income, would face poverty and want.

"In both governmental and commercial centers retirement on some system of pension for superannuated employes is becoming more generally recognized as both a practical and profitable policy, and that such a policy can be carried out by the government so as to meet the needs of economy seems to have been demonstrated.

"A system of retirement has been adopted by the leading governments of Europe, and its growth among business concerns indicates the wide recognition of the results accruing from the policy. It is found to affect not only benefits in relief, but to benefits are seen in its influences on the younger and more active class of employes."

Washington, Dec. 19.—Pensions for government employes was given an impetus at a banquet in this city, attended by about 1,000 Washington navy yard workers, who listened to a discussion of the subject in all its phases. W. C. Redgrave, auditor of the treasury department, declared strongly in favor of a retirement fund. He believed public opinion was yet opposed to it, and said this could be overcome by what was being favored workers starting a fund in a modest way. T. P. Sylvan, author of the old-line insurance system for pensions and disability allowance, explained the workings of this system maintained by the railroads. Senator Sterling, another speaker, made this reference to the bill in plan: "Any one who knows two and two is four, knows that this is a modified form of strike insurance. The labor and other monopolies are coming in at the eleventh hour in order to make their peace with the people."

Rev. Dr. Granger, of this city, and James H. Maher, of New York, also spoke. The workers intend holding a series of these meetings for the purpose of impressing this question on the public mind.

DOINGS OF MACHINISTS.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Officers of the International Association of Machinists report that they have signed an agreement with the American Sales Book Company, of Niagara Falls, N. Y. Wage increases for the men employed is a feature of the contract.

The general executive board of the I. A. of M. will meet in Savannah, Ga., beginning December 23.

Many valuable cuts and manuscripts of the Machinists Journal were destroyed by a fire in a printing office in this city.

Wage conferences are being held with officers of the Boston & Maine railroad.

It is reported that the Bethlehem Steel company is employing machinists at a starting rate of 22½ cents an hour. This firm is manufacturing projectiles and ordnance for the European warring nations.

COMPLAINS OF "DEATH TRAPS."

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 19.—In his annual report, Coal Mine Inspector Fuhr asks for immediate and drastic legislation to end dangerous defects in the Arkansas coal industry. He asserts that "pipes, and sometimes cables, are death traps" as they escape in case of fire from these pipes is impossible, except only by a miracle. He asks that operators be compelled to place sheet-iron doors over the shafts for protection in case the tipple caught fire, and declares that houses should be built of noncombustible material. He also recommends that refuge holes be placed every thirty feet in each mine and the mine owners be compelled to build wash houses for their employes.

EXTEND COMPENSATION ACT.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—The state industrial accident commission has ruled that an employe is protected by the state compensation act when he leaves the employer's premises, even though the accident occurs outside of such limits. The decision was rendered in the case of a worker who was being conveyed to his place of employment in a vehicle owned by the employer. The horse took fright and overturned the wagon, injuring the workman. It is contended that the injured man was technically on the premises of the employer and awarded damages.

CAR MEN WILL URGE NEW LAW

Columbus, O., Dec. 19.—Organized street railway men from all sections of Ohio will meet in this city, January 11, to plan a campaign for the passage of a full crew law, a law regulating working conditions. The proposal was indorsed at the last convention of the Ohio State Federation of Labor.

TO HOLD STATE MEETING.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 19.—Officers of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor have issued a call for the next State convention, to be held in this city, January 18. Delegates will be chosen to agree on a legislative program which will be submitted to legislative candidates at the election next November.

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Dec. 19. — The Federal bulletin of Labor's immigration bulletin for the month of October shows that 45,241 aliens were admitted to our ports during that month. This is a slight advance over September's report, which shows 44,624 were admitted. Of the October arrivals, were $1,231; July, 72,016; June, $6,094; May, 116,348.

During October, Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia contributed the greatest proportion of immigrants, a total of 4,051 coming from those countries. Of the grand total of admissions, unskilled laborers maintain their large percentage. Listed are 9,446 laborers, 4,423 farm laborers, and 4,859 servants. But 575 were farmers, and 58 were gardeners.

The largest number of arrivals among the skilled trades were: Clerks and accountants, 835; carpenters and joiners, 506; machinists, 253; miners, 205; dressmakers, 257; painters and glaziers, 116.

Industrial states and the far West received the greatest number of those admitted. New York is by the lead with 9,461. Massachusetts is next with 2,777, followed by California with 1,812, Pennsylvania with 1,780, Illinois with 1,511, and Washington with 1,618.

BAKERS ARE AGGRESSIVE.

Rock Island, Ill., Dec. 19.—The Bakers' union of this city is conducting an aggressive campaign to better working conditions and has succeeded in signing contracts with large shops the past two weeks.

WOULD DEFEAT SEA TREATY

A. F. of L. Opposes London Safety-at-Sea Agreement.

DOES NOT PROTECT HUMAN LIFE

President Gompers Exposes Pitfalls in Proposal — Important Amendment Is Urged.

Washington, Dec. 19.—On the ground that life at sea will be unprotected, that the La Follette seamen's bill, now pending in the Senate, will be valueless, and that the London sea treaty report will be impossible, the American Federation of Labor is opposing the ratification of the treaty—a convention—signed in London last January by the world's maritime nations at their safety-at-sea conference.

In a public statement President Gompers gives the following reasons for this opposition:

"The convention, adopted by the London conference, instead of being a proposition for safety of life at sea, might better be termed a surrender by the United States to legislate in the interest of the people of our country, and to give to the British government and others, as well as to cripple the government in the regulation of immigration.

"In the first place, the proposed treaty does not afford protection of life at sea, and no law or international agreement that would not safeguard life or property to any appreciable degree more than the disasters which have occurred in the past decade.

"The proposed treaty places the power to regulate the well-being and health of passengers, that is, of emigrants subject to the immigration laws of the countries from which they depart and hence would not be subject to the laws of the United States, to which it indicates the wish emigrants. Thus, though a seeming impartiality in practice, the emigration is from other countries to the United States in the same sense that the United States of other countries in the sense in which emigration is understood.

"The question of the welfare and the freedom of seamen when vessels are in safe harbor is wholly disregarded in the proposed treaty. If the proposed treaty were ratified by the Senate it would make it impossible for the Congress of the United States to enact just and humane provisions of the seamen's bill now pending before Congress.

"If the Senate desires to ratify the proposed treaty, then it should adopt the section of the proposed treaty on foreign relations in June, 1914, when the following was recommended:

"'Provided that the United States reserves the right to abrogate regulations, rules and requirements' indicated in Article 46, in accordance with the terms of such treaties, conventions and agreements, and to impose upon all vessels in the waters of the United States any such regulations for the safety and such provisions for the health and comfort of passengers and seamen as the United States shall enact for vessels of the United States.'

"With that proviso adopted, the government and the people of the United States will be free to exercise their right to legislate for our own protection and advancement and to the advantage of all, which right the proviso the treaty should not be ratified."

STATE EQUIPS HEALTH STATION.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 19.—The Louisiana health board, which is also the state board of health, has made a successful tour of many southern cities in the interest of cleanliness and sanitation. The board has established an appropriation to meet expenses, but in each city visited it has found that a charge for hauling the equipment, and invariably gave it the right of way. Medical authorities made addresses to visitors and explained the exhibits, which include sanitation, care of babies and dangers that follow the use of "consumption cures" and other fake medicines.

We now have our own train of two big Pullman cars, owned exclusively by the Texas State Federation of Labor. When we began this work four years ago, we had to borrow two old cars from the railroads.

"Next year we expect to equip another train, carrying a different message, so that we can visit a town in Louisiana twice each year and carry a different message to them on each visit. We expect to have many other models illustrating the proper manner of living in the home, in the schoolroom, and in the business office."

APPROVE AGREEMENT.

Massillon, Ohio, Dec. 19.—Employes of the Wheeling and Lake Erie railway have voted unanimously to accept the contract submitted by their representatives and agreed to by the railroad management last month.

FORM SHOP FEDERATION.

Cincinnati, Dec. 19.—Shop employes of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad have organized a shop federation which will include all crafts on this system.